



# Pilots To The Rescue

**We fly to save lives!**

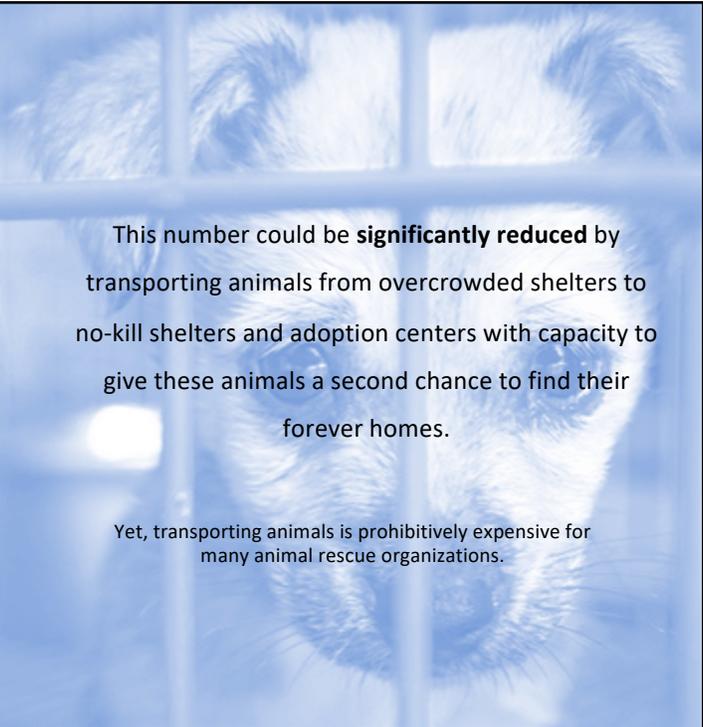


[www.pilotstotherescue.org](http://www.pilotstotherescue.org)



**920,000 animals  
in US shelters are  
euthanized  
every year.**

Northern shelters are often empty while southern shelters are overcrowded.



This number could be **significantly reduced** by transporting animals from overcrowded shelters to no-kill shelters and adoption centers with capacity to give these animals a second chance to find their forever homes.

Yet, transporting animals is prohibitively expensive for many animal rescue organizations.



Michael Schneider, Founder aka "Top Dog"

## Our Mission

- 🐾 To **prevent at-risk animals from being euthanized** by transporting them via air and ground transportation to give them the best chance at adoption.
- 🐾 **Volunteer pilots** fly animals from critical situations to safety, ultimately **saving lives**.



## Meet "Big Paw"

2025 has been a pivotal time of growth for Pilots To The Rescue following the acquisition of our Kodiak 100 plane in Q4 2024, nicknamed 'Big Paw,' which has doubled our capacity to save lives compared to our previous plane.

Big Paw **enables us to transport more animals in a safer and more reliable manner**, and helps us reach remote areas. This is especially critical for our disaster response missions.

We can now transport up to 100 dogs and cats per mission!



## About Our Work



🐾 Our rescue plane is based out of Essex County Airport (KCDW) in Fairfield, NJ

🐾 We fly and utilize our fleet of rescue vans for hybrid transportation missions, reaching underserved communities.

🐾 In 2025, we are celebrating 10 years of saving lives.

🐾 We typically run rescue missions once or twice per week.

🐾 Influencers and reporters often join our missions.



## Disaster Response

Pilots To The Rescue plays a critical role in times of crisis. Our team has successfully conducted lifesaving missions **before and after natural disasters**, including Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, evacuating at-risk animals from shelters facing danger.

**Demand for rapid-response animal transport continues to grow.** These missions are high-impact, urgent, and resource-intensive.

We are seeking rapid-deployment partners to underwrite flights, fuel, and emergency logistics. Strategic investment in this area will ensure Pilots To The Rescue can scale our disaster response capabilities—delivering swift, compassionate rescue for animals when every second counts.



[Pilots To The Rescue flies animals left homeless from North Carolina to New York following Hurricane Helene](#)



[Greenpoint man takes to the skies to rescue of at-risk animals in the south ahead of Hurricane Milton](#)



## Protecting Wildlife

While Pilots To The Rescue has historically focused on saving vulnerable cats and dogs, we have strategically expanded our mission to include endangered and threatened species.

In response to increasing requests from wildlife organizations including Humane World for Animals and conservation agencies, we now **selectively provide emergency transport and relocation of threatened species**, including sea turtles, wolves, and foxes.

These highly specialized missions align with our expertise in rapid-response rescue and reflects our commitment to amplifying our impact within the broader animal welfare ecosystem.



Pilots To The Rescue flew Ginger, a young American red wolf, on a life-saving mission from New York to the North Carolina Zoo, helping advance the national recovery effort to save her species from extinction.

Once widespread, the American red wolf is now the most endangered canid on the planet with fewer than 20 left in the wild.



## 2025 Marks Our 10th Anniversary!

We are proud of the souls we have saved and the communities we have uplifted.



371  
Missions



439,557  
Miles



6,229  
Souls

### 2025 Missions



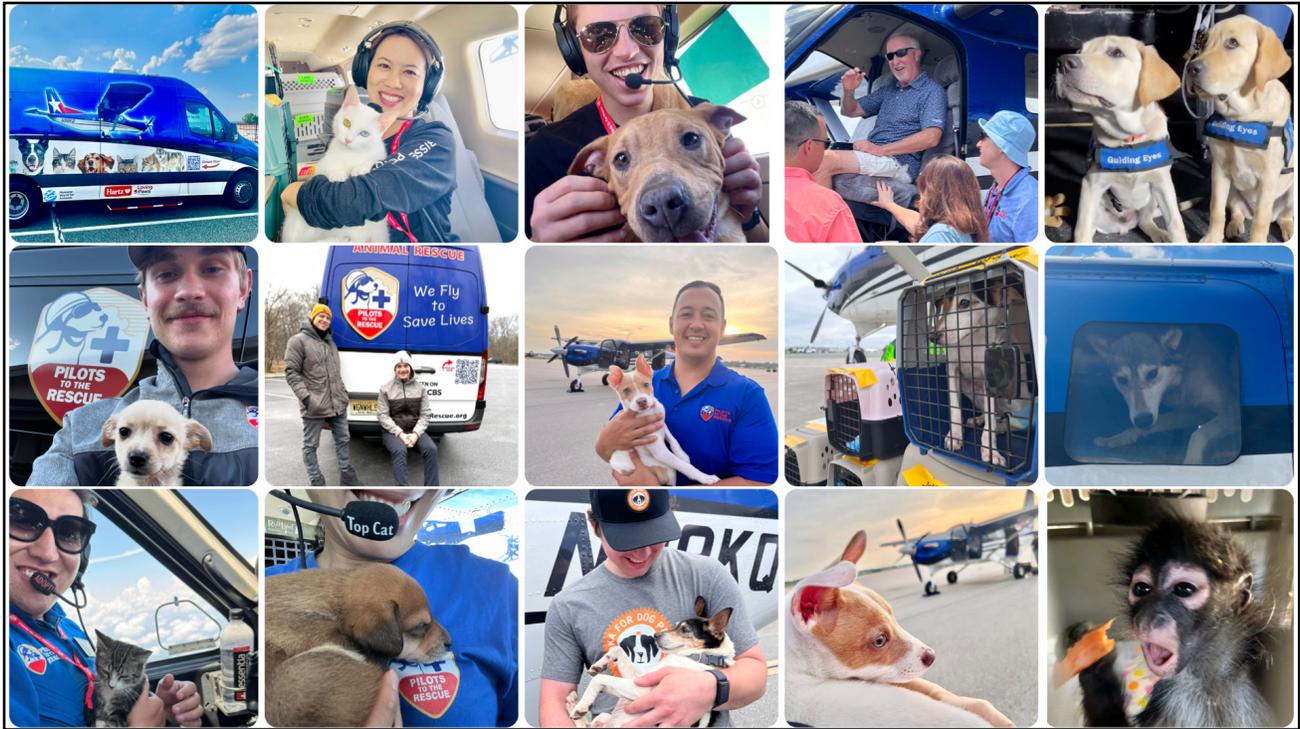
85  
Missions



126,736  
Miles



2,325  
Souls



As we embark on the next decade of our life-saving work, Pilots To The Rescue is committed to three key objectives:

- 1) **Expand our reach:** We will expand our operations nationally to provide essential transportation services to help more animals in need from coast to coast.
- 2) **Respond to disasters:** In partnership with emergency response organizations, we will provide critical transport and evacuation services before, during, and after disasters.
- 3) **Protect endangered animals:** We will utilize our unique capabilities to support life-saving transport for critically endangered species.

# Path to Scale

## A Scalable Network of Shelter Partnerships



- Pilots To The Rescue is on a strong growth trajectory. In 2025, we successfully completed 85 animal rescue missions, saving 2,325 animals (145% YoY growth vs 2024).
- This momentum is not accidental. It is built on the strength of our network of 100 shelter and rescue partners, cultivated over the past decade.
- Notably, 82% of these partners have collaborated with us on multiple missions, a testament to our trusted relationships and shared mission alignment.

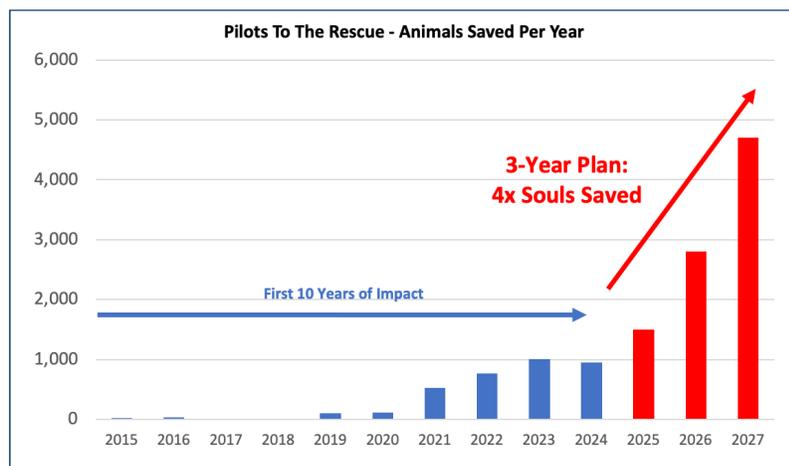
## 3-Year Strategic Plan (2025-2028)

We aim to

**4x the number of souls saved**

from 950 in 2024 to 4,700 in 2027 through investments in:

- 1) Transportation
- 2) Talent
- 3) Innovation





# Making Headlines



How Pilots To The Rescue is saving pets lives one flight at a time.

## Pet Age



Hartz Shelter Outreach Program, Pilots To The Rescue transport animals in need.

## CBS NEWS NEW YORK



CBS2's Vanessa Murdock flew with "Pilots to the Rescue," local pilots who fly to save the lives of furry friends and raise awareness of an issue that continues to plague the country -- euthanasia.

## WSMV 4 NASHVILLE'S STATION



Rescue dogs on the journey of a lifetime, traveling from overcrowded shelters to find their forever homes.



@pilotstotherescue

## Driving Awareness via Social Media



9.6M | 77K\*  
2025 Reach | Followers  
as of 7/25



535K | 81K  
2025 Reach | Followers  
as of 7/25



7.4K  
Followers



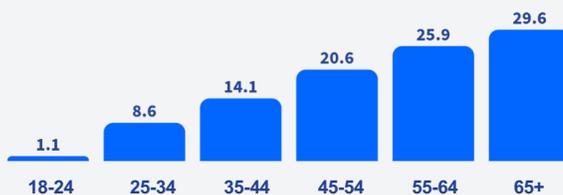
679K | 9.3K  
2024 Views | Followers



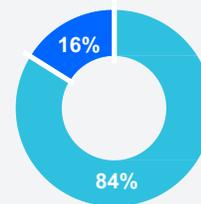
292K | 3.8K  
2024 Reach | Followers



51K | 1.7K  
2024 Reach | Followers



\* Age of Followers



Women  
Men

\*96% of our audience is located in the United States



# Reaching New Audiences with Popular Content Creators

Influencers frequently join our missions to provide their audiences with a behind-the-scenes look at our live-saving work.



Mack Rutherford holds the Guinness World Record as Youngest Person To Fly Around The World Solo (16-17 years). He has 87.1K followers on Instagram

@macksolo22



Animal Advocate Kyle Thomas is the #1 highest earning TikTok personality in the UK with 35 million followers on TikTok and 1.3 million on Instagram and 213K on Facebook

@kylethomas



Gabby Epstein (3.9 million on Instagram and 72K on TikTok) and Nicole Patrick (26.3K followers on Instagram) are founder of Rescue Spot, a pet adoption platform

@gabbyepstein



Elias Friedman is a New York Times bestselling author, photographer and Founder of The Dogist reaching 2.1M on TikTok, 7.6 million on Instagram and 1M on Facebook

@thedogist

<b>Collaborators</b> we have <b>Teamed Up</b> with				



## 2024 FINANCIALS

**Total Revenue** = \$4,553,896

**Total Expenses** = \$3,091,043

*Program* = \$2,073,794

*Fundraising* = \$848,663

*G&A* = \$168,586

**Change in Net Assets** = \$1,462,853

**Ending Net Assets** = \$4,129,533

## Board Members



**Kyle Kirschner**  
President



**Scott Rickles**  
Treasurer



**Daniel Bauml**  
Secretary/Compliance  
Volunteer Pilot



**Andrea Reiff**  
Director



**Brian Orter**  
Director  
Volunteer Pilot



**Victor Girgenti**  
Director  
Volunteer Pilot



**Sy Blechman**  
Director  
Volunteer Pilot



**Tim Parilla**  
Director  
Volunteer Pilot





## Michael Schneider

Founder & Executive Director | AKA "Top Dog"

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